MARVEL

7

LGY#656

ZDARSKY
DE LATORRE
D'AMICO
WILSON

DAREDEVIL

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DIGITAL EDITION BONUS DETAILS INSIDE!

Frank Castle. The *Punisher.*

A murderer, killing criminals in a deluded war that only he sees.

He's insane. But he was his *own* army, a singular, malevolent presence.

Until *the Hand* took him in.

Until their *high priestess,* intent on feeding *the Beast,* the one they worship in Hell...

...made him their *leader.*

Gave him an *army.*

He is *Hell on Earth* now. Chaos. *The high priestess* knows this.

But *the Hand's* whisperer from the shadows, *Aka...*

...is playing a *different game.* Not one of *chaos.*

One of *prophecy.* Or so...

...*Elektra* and *Stick* keep telling me.

YOU'RE A *FOOL*, MATTHEW MURDOCK.

I'M NOT THE ONE...

...WHO WAS *CAUGHT ON VIDEO* MURDERING THE *PRESIDENT.*

LOOK, ELEKTRA... I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME FOR ME TO TAKE MY *CREW* INTO THE WORLD--

EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR US! THE *ISLAND* PROTECTS US FROM PRYING EYES!

WE NEED TO *FOCUS*. AKA *TOLD ME* THERE WILL BE *WAR* ON THE PLAINS OF *YUSUHARA*.

THAT ONE OF US WILL *DIE*. WE NEED TO PREPARE AND--

DAMMIT, GOLDY HAS ROBBED ME OF MY *FREE WILL*. AND THESE *PROPHECIES* ARE DOING THE SAME.

IT'S A *TRAP*, ELEKTRA. *AKA* IS *BAITING* US, MAKING US *UNSURE*.

I'VE LOST TOO MUCH TO *"FATE"* LATELY. I'M GOING TO *LIVE* AND DO WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE...

...HELP PEOPLE.

YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME, *"MY QUEEN."*

RRRAHH!

CHIP ZDARSKY
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WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-DEGREE RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY AS...

DAREDEVIL

DAREDEVIL IS **MARRIED**.

CENTURIES AGO, A GROUP NAMED THE FIST WAS FORMED TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THE SADISTIC AND VIOLENT NINJA CLAN **THE HAND**. AFTER A GRUELING RITUAL, **MATT MURDOCK** AND **ELEKTRA NATCHIOS** HAVE EMERGED AS THE FIST'S KING AND QUEEN.

MATT AND ELEKTRA BROKE INTO THE MYRMIDON AND OFFERED THE INCARCERATED CRIMINALS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES AT THE FIST'S ISLAND STRONGHOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AID AGAINST THE HAND.

THE HAND HAS KIDNAPPED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS AND REPLACED THEM WITH DEATH-WORSHIPPING PUPPETS, FRAMING ELEKTRA FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PROCESS. EMBOLDENED BY THEIR NEW LEADER, **THE PUNISHER**, THE HAND IS POISED TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN ITS IMAGE, UNLESS MATT AND ELEKTRA CAN STOP THEM!

THE RED FIST SAGA
PART 7

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It's been months.

Months since I started. A community on Makanrushi island, working toward making our visitors better people.

To break *free* from their cycles of incarceration.

Baby steps. it's time to see if they can do some *good* now.

HN. FEELS A LITTLE *PUBLIC.*

I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING US TO FIGHT *NINJA* OR *DR. OCTOPUS* OR SOMETHING...

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.

...BUT YOU'RE SERIOUSLY TELLING ME YOU BROKE US OUT OF *PRISON*...

...SO WE COULD WALK UP TO SOME COPS AND *BREAK THE LAW AGAIN?*

YOU'RE *LAWBREAKERS.* SO AM I.

THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS HAS BEEN *ABOUT.*

IT'S JUST TIME TO STOP BREAKING THEM FOR *SELF-GAIN.*

WE BREAK THE LAWS OF MAN TO *HELP OTHERS.*

LET'S GO.

MARVEL REMEMBERS

CARLOS PACHECO
1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

POLICE

POLICE

THIS ISN'T *RIGHT!* THESE ARE OUR *HOMES!*

This building was sold to a developer named ***Castlemax.***

Its occupants were given ***eviction notices*** based on manufactured ***lease violations.***

BANG BANG

POLICE

MR. RAMIREZ! THIS IS THE POLICE!

YOU NEED TO VACATE THE PREMISES!

It always comes down to money and purchased ***power.***

WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THESE CASTLEMAX @#$% AND THEIR THREATS!

But there's a ***higher power.***

IT'S NOT A THREAT!

YOU'VE BEEN LEGALLY EVICTED!

POLICE

POLIC

#$@% IT. PLACE IS GETTING DEMOLISHED ANYWAY...

POLICE

POLICE

KRAK KRAK

AHHH!

S-STAY AWAY!

NOT HAPPENING! DROP THE BAT!

OFFICERS...

...PUT YOUR GUNS AWAY.

YEAH, OR WE'LL *ARREST* YA.

DOWN ON THE--!

KRAK

POLICE

NH!

IF YOUR JOB IS PROTECTING *PROPERTY* OVER *PEOPLE*...

HN!

...THEN GET A NEW $#@% *JOB!*

AND *HELP* PEOPLE!

Calm, Matt...

HELP PEOPLE!

One floor up, I hear *Bullet* entering an apartment.

STAY AWAY!

GET CUFFS ON HER. I GOT THE KID-- AHF!

SMAK

KID $#@% BIT ME! HE--

WAIT-- WHO THE #@$& ARE--?

RAHH!

POLICE

SMACK

YOU SON OF--!

NO.

VIOLENCE WHEN *NECESSARY.*

THIS GUY EATING DIRT *IS* NECESSARY.

HURTING HIM JUST MAKES *YOU* FEEL BETTER.

IT'S A *SELFISH* ACT. YOU'RE BETTER THAN--

--JUST BLOW IT UP. THEY CAN BLAME THE PROTESTERS--

JAMES! THERE ARE *EXPLOSIVES* IN THE BUILDING!

Castlemax's security would kill the residents *and* cops just to *end* this!

NO WORRIES.

Speed Demon can cover the building from top to bottom a dozen times in seconds. He won't know where to look...

...but I do.

BASEMENT, BEHIND THE *BOILER.*

MAIN FLOOR SUPPLY CLOSET.

THIRD FLOOR, ELEVATOR SHAFT.

My *Fist*-enhanced senses...are overwhelming. I can feel the *shapes* of everything through the building. If air touches it...

...so do I.

As fast as I can list them--

--*Speed Demon* defuses.

P-PLEASE... L-LEAVE ME ALONE...

KID, COME ON...

...IT'S OVER. YOUR FAMILY IS BEING TAKEN OUT OF THEIR PLACE.

Wait... *outside* the building...

IT'S NOT *SAFE* UP HERE...

NO!

JAMES! THE ROOF--

SkaBOOM

I'M STILT-MAN.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

The people stay in their homes.

The cops lick their wounds and run.

POLICE

POLICE

And the second part of my three-part plan...

...plays out.

GET IN THERE, DAMMIT!

CAPTAIN MALFORD?

POLICE

WHO THE HELL ARE--?

TERRY FOWLING. I REPRESENT THE RESIDENTS.

AND THIS IS A COURT INJUNCTION DELAYING THE EVICTIONS DUE TO NEW EVIDENCE.

I'm a decent super hero...

...but I'm a damned good lawyer.

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

THAT BUILDING IS *OURS!* WE CAN DO WHATEVER THE #$@%--

--WE WANT...

CLIVE MARKUSON.

C.E.O. OF *CASTLEMAX.*

YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.

WH-WH-WH-WHO--?

IT'S INTERESTING, REALLY.

AS C.E.O. OF *CASTLEMAX,* YOU HAVE TO PLEASE THE SHAREHOLDERS OR ELSE YOU LOSE YOUR *JOB.*

AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT...

...IS *UNLIMITED GROWTH,* YEAR OVER YEAR OVER YEAR, UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

OR YOU'RE *DONE.*

P-PLEASE, I D-DON'T--

WELL, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU: *YOU'RE DONE.*

NO MORE *EVICTIONS.* NO MORE PUSHING PEOPLE INTO THE *STREETS.*

OR WE'LL BE *BACK* WITH *MORE* THAN WORDS.

SO...NO VIOLENCE?

UNLESS NECESSARY.

AND YOU THINK...

...VIOLENCE IS JUST *PHYSICAL?*

THAT GUY IS GOING TO HAVE *NIGHTMARES* FOR *MONTHS.*

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T ENJOY THAT.

I DIDN'T.

I did.

SOMETIMES *FEAR* IS THE ONLY WEAPON-- THE GENTLEST WEAPON.

WE NEEDED TO STOP HIM FROM DOING MORE HARM.

YEAH? THEN WHY NOT BRING HIM WITH *US?* WHY NOT PUT ALL THESE C.E.O.s ON YOUR LITTLE *SOCIALIST ISLAND* TOO?

WHY IS IT THAT GUYS LIKE US ARE THE ONES IN NEED OF YOUR "KIND REHABILITATION" BUT NOT THE GUYS IN *MANSIONS?*

LOOK... I GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO *DO* HERE.

YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING *DIFFERENT* THAN JUST BEATING OUR ASSES STRAIGHT INTO PRISON OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

IT'S *WORKING,* BULLET. YOU KNOW IT IS.

SURE. SOME OF THESE GUYS MAY TAKE TO IT. HELL, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CONVINCE *ME* TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

...BUT I CAN'T BE ON YOUR ISLAND ANYMORE WHILE MY *BOY* IS OUT THERE WITHOUT HIS *FATHER.* IF YOU WANT TO BREAK THESE CYCLES...

...LET ME BE WITH LANCE. HE'S THE THING THAT MAKES ME BELIEVE I CAN BE *GOOD.*

THESE *PRISONS* YOU HATE, THEY KEEP *FATHERS* FROM THEIR *SONS.* AND THAT DOESN'T HELP EITHER OF THEM.

I'M HEADING BACK TO THE CITY. I CAN'T PROMISE YOU ANYTHING, BUT I'M GOING TO TRY MY BEST TO DO *RIGHT.* OR AT LEAST DO LESS *WRONG* IN THE WORLD.

His heart says he isn't lying.

BUT I AIN'T GETTIN' SOME JOE JOB FLIPPIN' BURGERS.

At what point do I let them go?

I... OKAY. BUT THE ISLAND IS *YOURS.*

WHEN THINGS ARE ROUGH, WHEN YOU FEEL YOURSELF *SLIPPING...*

...USE THIS TO CONTACT ME. AND I CAN BRING YOU BACK.

I'M DEDICATED TO THIS, BULLET. I'M DEDICATED TO *YOU.*

I... HEH. NO ONE'S EVER BEEN THERE FOR ME BEFORE.

KINDA WEIRD THAT THE FIRST PERSON IS A GUY WHO ROUTINELY PUNCHES ME IN THE FACE.

AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH FLIPPING BURGERS. I'VE DONE IT.

FEEDING PEOPLE IS A FAR BETTER JOB THAN HURTING THEM.

YOU AIN'T TASTED MY COOKING.

This may be a mistake, but I have to be willing to make them.

Almost all of the people I've brought to the island are happy to be there...

...to have some sense of order and peace without the pressures of their old lives and habits.

I can't force Bullet to walk a path. I can just give him some light to find his way...

WHAT, IS THE BIG GUY GONNA *WALK* BACK TO THE ISLAND?

...and keep *watch* over him.

ANGRY?

YESSSS

GOOD. *CONTROL* IT. HARNESS IT. YOUR ANGER IS THE *BLADE.*

I... HOW...?

CONTROL.

MY LOVE. I BELIEVE YOU LEFT WITH *FOUR.*

BULLET NEEDED TO BE WITH HIS ***SON.*** I GAVE HIM A ***JEWEL*** SO WE CAN KEEP ***TABS*** ON HIM.

DOES HE ***KNOW*** IT ALLOWS US TO ***SPY*** ON HIM?

HE DOES ***NOT.***

HM. YOU'RE BECOMING AS UNTRUSTING AS *ME.*

COME. I NEED TO ***SHOW*** YOU SOMETHING THAT ***HAPPENED*** WHILE YOU WERE AWAY ON YOUR *PLAYDATE.*

THE BOOK IS ACTIVE.

WHAT DO YOU--?

IT'S WRITING ITSELF. REVEALING MORE.

CASTLE IS ON A MURDERING SPREE. HEADED TO YUSUHARA NOW.

HE THINKS THERE'S A TOWN OF KILLERS THAT NEED TO BE WIPED OUT THERE.

THOUSANDS WILL DIE IF WE DON'T STOP HIM.

OH MY GOD. THE BOOK, I...

...I CAN READ IT. I CAN...

IT'S ALL HERE...

...MY LIFE...

My life. Why can't it just be *my* life? Why can't--?

...YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE STILL IN CONTROL?

MATTHEW.

MATTHEW...

WHAT? I'M SORRY, I--

IT SEEMS WE HAVE A COMMUNICATION COMING IN ALREADY FROM YOUR FREED LAMB...

BULLET? WHAT'S WRONG? WHY--?

THEY TOOK HIM! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

MY LANCE IS--HN! DAMMIT!

YOU BASTARDS! I'LL KILL YOU!

I'LL KILL ALL OF YOU!

HRAHH!

<IF YOU WISH TO SEE THIS *MURDERER* SPARED BY MY MASTER'S *BLADE*...>*

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

<...YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO...>

WE NEED TO GO. THE *BOOK* IS VERY CLEAR.

MATTHEW INSISTS THIS IS ALL A *TRAP*...

...AND I'M STARTING TO SIDE WITH HIM. *CASTLE* AND *AKA* WANT YOU TO THINK YOU CAN *SAVE* BULLET AND HIS BOY...

...BUT THEY'RE *GONE*.

CASTLE WILL KILL BULLET. IT'S WHAT HE *DOES* TO CRIMINALS...

...BUT HE'LL NEVER BE PARTY TO THE MURDER OF A CHILD.

THAT CHILD NEEDS RESCUING. IT'S A TRAP, BUT...

...DAMMIT...

KLAKLANG KLAKLANG

KLAKLANG KLAKLANG

What can I say?

Everyone in this compound has looked for meaning, for something to fight for, whether they know it or not.

Some thought fighting for a broken system was the way.

Others thought fighting just for themselves, after a life of abandonment, was the way.

I tell them again about *the Hand*. About the lack of *gray* in this fight.

They're evil. They wish only to *commit* evil for *the Beast* in *Hell*.

I say to the freed inmates that I'd hoped they'd fight alongside me one day, that they'd see this fight against evil as their own.

I tell them we're not ready.

It's too soon. We can't take on ***the Hand*** army and their ***insane leader*** in battle.

But there's a child.

I say those words and they hang in the air.

"But there's a child."

We're not ready.

PROTECT THE BOY, AKA.

HE DIDN'T CHOOSE HIS *FATHER.*

OF COURSE, LORD PUNISHER.

And evil is ***always*** ready.

So, dammit, you just do your best.

I'm coming for you, Frank.

God's army is coming for you.

NEXT ISSUE

ZONE